

To: Honorable Members of the Senate Redistricting Committee

From: Isaac Leal, Representing Self, Independent of any Organization

Subject Matter On: 2020 Census; the redistricting of Illinois Congressional Districts; and the potential creation of judicial subcircuits in counties with populations under 150,000

Date: Saturday, October 2nd, 2021

Committee: Senate Redistricting Committee Hearing on October 14th, 2021 at 12:00

Position: Proponent of Redistricting

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Members of the Senate Redistricting Committee,

I have lived in many places in the United States and even abroad throughout my life. I have moved a significant number of times, and have thus been represented by both members of Congress who are Democrats and who are Republicans. At the moment, I am currently represented by congressperson Rodney Davis.

I don't like that. I have nothing personal against Rodney Davis, but I don't like that. It's a matter of principle.

In my experience in life, which I do admit, being only 22 years old, is quite limited, I have found that without exception, Democratic congresspeople tend to have better constituent services and outreach than Republican congresspeople. Perhaps it is a function of geography, perhaps it is a function of talent acquisition and self-sorting, but I would much rather be represented by a Democrat than a Republican, admittedly for better constituent services and more responsive offices, which can be perceived as self-serving.

As someone living in the heart of Springfield, a rather Democratic city, I would prefer to be represented by a Democratic congressperson. I do not particularly care what the districts have to look like for that to happen. If I have to be represented by a congressperson whose district looks like a snake, I am more than happy for that to occur, especially since there are so many other people who would prefer to be represented by a Democratic congressperson in downstate and central Illinois that are not currently represented by one.

I hope you take my views and the views of people like me into consideration. Thank you for your time and for reading this, it is much appreciated.

Regards,

Isaac Leal